

From: Eric Bohm
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 12:48pm
Subject: Sad about the Settlement

Greetings,

I thank you for the opportunity to convey my opinion about the DOJ vs Microsoft case. As a professional software developer I am quite interested in the future of my industry. I am deeply saddened that you have decided not to punish Microsoft for their illegal practices.

I have personally felt the insidious power of their monopoly. Few executives are expert enough in the actual technology to make well informed decisions. This leaves them extremely vulnerable to the lies and manipulations of the Microsoft Marketing department. This puts a tremendous additional burden on software developers.

Any time we analyze a problem we try to find the best and least expensive solution. If that solution doesn't involve Microsoft products it requires a great deal of additional justification. That justification requires considerable research time and effort. Their monopoly power forces us to consider them the default solution to any problem, completely independent of the quality of the products. Their misleading marketing material about the actual nature of those products further confounds realistic analysis. Their monopoly power permits them to get away with delivering a shoddy product masked by clever marketing.

In the process of your prosecution you proved that Microsoft has abused their monopoly power many times. You proved that the results of their action have been detrimental to the american people. And now you suggest the solution to these problems is a toothless watchdog committee. In order for them to apply any punishment for violation they have to go back through the court system again. Thus giving Microsoft more time and weasel room to ensure that the intended results of their misbehavior are accomplished.

You have betrayed us.

Sincerely,
Eric Bohm